

In the Specification

On page 1, line 1 please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a U.S. National Stage application of PCT Application No. PCT/FR03/02469, with an international filing date of August 5, 2003. Applicant claims priority based on French application serial no. 02 09969 filed August 5, 2002.

Please insert the following Abstract:

A process and system for treating excess sludge produced from a biological treatment system. The process includes biologically treating water or wastewater and producing excess sludge. The excess sludge is directed to a solubilizer where the sludge is solubilized. The solubilized sludge is directed to a liquid/solid separator, which separates the solubilized sludge into a liquid fraction and a solid fraction. The process further includes at least partially digesting the liquid fraction and directing the partially digested liquid fraction to the biological treatment system where the liquid fraction is subjected to further treatment. Finally, the solid fraction is subject to further solubilization.